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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF "HAND DELIVERY"

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand delivered to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 2, 2003.

MAI HAN VO Heather Savia

In re Application of:

Nguyen, et al.

Serial No. 09/828,335

Filing Date: April 5, 2001

Title: MULTIPLE LOOP TISSUE  
CONNECTOR APPARATUS AND  
METHODS

Examiner: U. Ho

Group Art Unit: 3731

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application, a copy of each of the documents listed on the attached Substitute for Form 1449A. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☐ With the patent application filing.
- ☒ Within three months of the application filing date or before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ A fee is required. A check in/including the amount of \$\* is enclosed.

- ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After receipt of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Accordingly, a Petition requesting consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, an authorization to charge our deposit account, and a Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) are provided below.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Substitute for Form 1449A, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

Applicants further bring the attention of the Examiner to the following co-owned pending patent applications:

U.S. Serial No. 09/828,322 filed April 5, 2001  
U.S. Serial No. 09/847,947 filed May 2, 2001  
U.S. Serial No. 10/188,013 filed July 1, 2002  
U.S. Serial No. 10/208,405 filed July 29, 2002  
U.S. Serial No. 10/364,064 filed February 10, 2003  
U.S. Serial No. 10/408,019 filed April 3, 2003  
U.S. Serial No. 10/439,973 filed May 16, 2003  
U.S. Serial No. 10/653,027 filed August 28, 2003

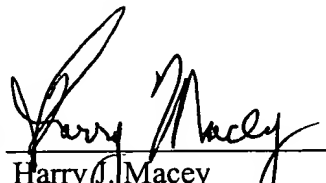
This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the U.S. Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. CSI-2015. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 21, 2003

By:

  
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